WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A protective cover for use with a personal electronic instrument comprising:

a bottom cover with a first hinge apparatus,

a top cover with a second hinge apparatus cooperatively coupled to said first hinge apparatus such that said bottom cover and top cover pivot about an edge axis, and

a central rail assembly parallel to and in operative relationship with said first and second hinge apparatus, said central rail assembly being mounted parallel to and contiguous with said edge axis.

2. A hard case assembly comprising:

a top cover assembly,

a bottom cover assembly,

a hinge assembly operatively coupled to and a part of said top cover assembly and said bottom assembly to allow said top assembly and said bottom assembly to pivot about each other along an edge axis, and

a rail attachment including a hinge section operatively coupled to said hinge assembly such that said rail attachment is aligned along an axis parallel to said hinge assembly and pivotally movable about said hinge axis.

3. The hard case assembly as set forth in Claim 2, said rail attachment being slightly shorter than the hinge assembly as assembled, and operable within the compartment as defined by said top cover assembly and said bottom cover assembly when in a closed configuration.

4. The hard case assembly as set forth in Claim 3, said rail attachment being an elongated generally cylindrical body and situated a short predetermined distance from said hinge axis, said rail attachment being pivotable about said hinge axis outwardly and limited only by the opening defined by said top and bottom cover assemblies.

5. The hard case assembly as set forth in Claim 4, further including an electronic instrument mounted on said central rail assembly, wherein the top and bottom cover assemblies completely surround said electronic instrument when said top and bottom cover assemblies are in a closed configuration.

6. The hard case assembly as set forth in Claim 5, said electronic instrument including a hollow longitudinal edge opening along one edge thereof with which to be operatively coupled to said rail attachment, such that the operative surface of said electronic instrument faces toward said top cover assembly.

7. The hard case assembly as set forth in Claim 5, said electronic instrument including a hollow longitudinal edge opening along one edge thereof with which to be operatively coupled to said rail attachment, such that the operative surface of said electronic instrument faces toward said bottom cover assembly.

8. The hard case assembly as set forth in Claim 5, said top cover assembly comprising a top inner case unit and a top outer case unit, said top inner case unit being removably mounted within said top outer case unit, and

said bottom cover assembly comprising a bottom inner case unit and a bottom outer case unit, said bottom inner case unit being removably mounted within said bottom outer case unit.

9. The hard case assembly as set forth in Claim 8, said top inner case unit being formed to include indents and other openings to accommodate a specific electronic instrument when the operative surface of said electronic instrument is mounted in said hard case assembly facing said top inner case unit.

10. The hard case assembly as set forth in Claim 8, said bottom inner case unit being formed to include indents and other openings to accommodate a specific electronic instrument when the operative surface of said electronic

instrument is mounted in said hard case assembly facing said bottom inner case unit.

11. The hard case assembly as set forth in Claim 5, said rail attachment being configured to allow said electronic instrument to be easily inserted and removed from said rail attachment.

12. The hard case assembly as set forth in Claim 11, said rail attachment being configured to allow said electronic instrument to be removed from said rail attachment within a narrow range as said electronic instrument is pivotable between the top and bottom cover assemblies.

13. The hard case assembly as set forth in Claim 11, said rail attachment being configured to allow said electonic instrument to be selectively removed from said rail attachment from one edge axis of said electronic instrument and reattached to said rail attachment along the opposite edge axis of said electronic instrument.

14. The hard case assembly as set forth in Claim 5, said hinge assembly comprising a hinge pin being inserted into the hinge pin assembly including the hinge section of the top cover assembly, bottom cover assembly, and the rail attachment to operatively allow the top cover assembly,

bottom cover assembly, and rail attachment to pivot about the axis defined by the hinge pin.

15. The hard case assembly as set forth in Claim 14, further including a spring inserted into the hinge assembly prior to the hinge pin with which to bias the top cover assembly toward each other to form a closed hard case assembly.

16. The hard case assembly as set forth in Claim 5, wherein said top and bottom cover assemblies have opposite and similar cutouts on said edges thereof to allow external data or other electronic communication to said electronic instrument while the case is in a closed configuration.